

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 002347

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM/ANE, EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, IO AND SA/PAB, NSC FOR DWORKEN, MANN, KHALILZAD, QUANRUD, AND BRYZA
DEPT PASS USAID FOR NATSIOS, DCHA/OFDA FOR GARVELINK, MCCONNELL, MARX, AND FARNSWORTH, ANE/AA FOR CHAMBERLAIN, USAID/A, DCHA/AA, DCHA/RMT, DCHA/OFDA, DCHA/FFP, DCHA/OTI, DCHA/DG, ANE/AA AND USAID/AA
ROME FOR FODOG, GENEVA FOR RMA AND NYLOH
EUCOM FOR J3, J5 AND POLAD
CENTCOM FOR J3, J5 AND POLAD
PACOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AA](#) [EAID](#) [IZ](#) [MOPS](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [WFP](#)

SUBJECT: NGO-IO COORDINATION MEETING IN ANKARA, 9 APRIL

This cable was drafted by DART and cleared by Embassy.

Summary

[¶1.](#) (U) Summary: UNOCHA hosted an NGO/IO coordination meeting on 9 April in Ankara. UNOCHA, UNHCR, IFRC, the American Red Cross, ten NGOs and DART Field Office/North attended. UNHCR reported no refugee movements in the region. As a result, the GOT Crisis Center and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (Kizilay) are scaling back their operations in southeastern Turkey. UNSECOORD has received GOT permission, in principle, to enter northern Iraq from Turkey to conduct a security assessment. There has been increased movement of WFP food shipments from Turkey to northern Iraq. NGOs continue to await permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to transit Turkey to work in northern Iraq. Reports from northern Iraq indicate that food and non-food items are available but at increased costs. Health care and other essential services continue to be provided. End summary.

UN Update

[¶2.](#) (SBU) UNHCR deputy representative reported that there have been no major or minor refugee movements in the region, but that UNHCR remains in the preparedness mode. The deputy representative noted that it was not until day 39 of the 1991 war that refugee flows began. He expressed ongoing concern for the situation, citing Kurdish movements toward Mosul and Kirkuk as possible triggers for large movements of Iraqis.

[¶3.](#) (U) The lack of movement of refugees into Turkey has caused the GOT to re-evaluate its Silopi operation and move items to Diyarbakir. The GOT is also reassessing the Crisis Center in Diyarbakir. UNOCHA reported that the Center remains on standby with a scaled-down presence. Kizilay has reduced its staff in southeastern Turkey by 160. There are now 120 Kizilay staff members present in that region.

[¶4.](#) (U) MFA has accepted, in principle, UNSECOORD's request to transit Turkey to conduct a security assessment in northern Iraq. Clearance is still needed from UN offices in New York and Larnaca, UNOCHA reported. Two teams are prepared to begin the assessment in northern Iraq when these clearances are received.

[¶5.](#) (U) Since 30 March more than 100 WFP-contracted trucks have transited into northern Iraq, carrying mostly wheat flour to Dohuk, Arbil and Sulaimaniyah. UNJLC reported that an average of 250 trucks per day would be required to meet future plans.

NGO Issues

[¶6.](#) (SBU) Some NGOs remain on standby in Ankara awaiting MFA permission to transit Turkey to work in Iraq. There has been no formal notification from the MFA. Two NGO representatives will depart Turkey on 10 April; one will leave a local representative to monitor the MFA request.

¶7. (SBU) ID cards and coordination inside of Iraq remain issues for NGOs. NGOs do not want to use U.S. military-issued ID cards. They recognize the importance of IDs but favor using their own organizations, cards. NGOs are also concerned about coordination of humanitarian assistance inside Iraq. They are unsure of how they will interact with the UN, the U.S. military and other coordinating bodies, e.g., ORHA.

¶8. (U) Those NGOs remaining in Turkey are committed to working with the GOT to get formal permission to transit Turkey to work in Iraq. Three NGOs: the American Refugee Committee, Shelter for Life and Counterpart International submitted requests for transit permits to the MFA during the week of 6 April. Eight NGOs have now requested transit permits.

Northern Iraq Update

¶9. (U) UNOPS has completed an IDP survey in the Kurdish-controlled region of Iraq. They report that there are now 266,000 displaced persons in the region.

¶10. (U) UNOCHA reported that the old Iraqi dinar has appreciated by 40 percent. Food costs are increasing by 50-100 percent, but shops are open. Non-food items remain available, but there is a shortage of shelter material. This shortage could be problematic if there is an influx of IDPs.

¶11. (U) Health services continue to function, and UN-sponsored vaccination programs, e.g., measles, are ongoing.

¶12. (SBU) Fuel continues to be imported to Sulaimaniyah and Arbil from Iran. There have been no shipments from GOI-controlled areas since the war began.

¶13. (SBU) Power lines from Mosul to the Kurdish-controlled region of Iraq have been damaged in recent fighting. Power continues to be supplied, but the cost of power has increased.

Further Meetings

¶14. (U) The next NGO/IO coordination meeting will be held at UN House in Ankara on 16 April at 1400 hrs. DART Field Office/North will attend.

PEARSON